

NUTRITIONIST II (1272)

I. NATURE OF WORK:

A Nutritionist II is the full performance level of licensed work providing nutrition services to clients in a public health or community setting. Employees in the class do not supervise other nutritionists, but may provide advice and guidance to lower-level nutritionists and students.

Employees receive general supervision from a higher-level nutritionist, health administrator or other administrator. The work may require travel to various locations, such as schools, clients' homes and clinics to provide nutrition services.

The Nutrition Program Trainee, Nutritionist I and Nutritionist II are differentiated on the basis of licensure status and degree of supervisory control exercised by the supervisor over these employees. The Nutritionist I and Nutritionist II are licensed levels of the work and the Nutrition Program Trainee is the nonlicensed level of the work. The Nutritionist II performs the full range of duties under general supervision while the Nutritionist I performs duties under close supervision at times and under general supervision at other times, depending on the complexity of the specific duty being performed. The Nutrition Program Trainee performs the duties under close supervision.

II. EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Examples are illustrative only)

- Plans, implements and evaluates nutrition services for an assigned region or population;

- Organizes and conducts the nutrition component of a county or regional health education program;

- Provides direct nutrition and diet therapy counseling services to health department clients and county or regional residents through individual and group counseling;

- Develops, reviews, evaluates and distributes nutrition education materials;

- Serves as a resource person in nutrition matters to the local health department staff and to the community at large;

- Makes public presentations on general nutrition topics;

- Analyzes population characteristics within the service area and initiates outreach efforts for population subgroups whose characteristics indicate special nutritional requirements;

- Provides in-service training and nutrition education materials to professionals, paraprofessionals, and support staff in public and private schools and agencies;

- Provides information on food assistance programs and initiates referrals to appropriate programs;

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Establishes and maintains cooperative working relationships with local health agencies, community groups and others interested in problems related to foods and nutrition;

Researches information in order to keep abreast of current practice, participates in food and nutrition surveys and prepares reports for professional and other use;

May provide concentrated services to clients with special nutritional needs because of age, health status, socio-economic status or other characteristics;

May assist in the orientation and training of students in nutrition and dietetics;

Performs other related duties.

III. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of the science and practice of nutrition, its relationship to health and disease, and its effect on the quality of life;

Knowledge of needs and issues or problems in nutrition in the community;

Knowledge of the interrelationships of social, cultural and economic factors as they affect food habits;

Knowledge of the techniques of nutrition education and of counseling;

Knowledge of health care programs and delivery systems;

Knowledge of community organization;

Knowledge of research methods and data analysis;

Skill in interviewing and counseling individuals and groups;

Skill in planning, organizing and evaluating a public health nutrition service;

Skill in conducting community nutrition assessments by identifying and analyzing the characteristics of the population that potentially affect nutritional status;

Skill in evaluating the suitability and effectiveness of nutrition education materials;

Skill in making public presentations using a variety of media;

Ability to communicate effectively;

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with health professionals, paraprofessionals and community leaders.

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IV. MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

Education: Determined by the Maryland State Board of Dietetic Practice under the licensing requirements for Nutritionists and Dietitians.

Experience: Two years of experience providing professional nutrition or dietetic services.

Note: A Master's Degree in Public Health, Community Health or Nutrition from an accredited college or university may be substituted for one year of the required experience.

V. LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS AND CERTIFICATES:

1. Candidates for positions in this classification must possess a current license as a Dietitian/Nutritionist from the Maryland State Board of Dietetic Practice, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 prior to permanent appointment.
2. Employees in this classification may be assigned duties which require the operation of a motor vehicle. Employees assigned such duties will be required to possess a motor vehicle operator's license valid in the State of Maryland.

DATE REVISED: December 20, 2006

Class specifications are broad descriptions covering groups of positions used by various State Departments and agencies. Position descriptions maintained by the using departments or agency specifically address the essential job functions of each position.

APPROVED:

Director, Division of Salary Administration
and Position Classification